

AMENDED 10/31/13

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, September 9, 2013, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Susan Rancourt, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, John Saviano and Lynn Wainwright; Melinda Thies, Superintendent; Mario Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title 1, Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel; and Pauline Silva, Director of Finance and Administration

(REMOVED)Absent: (ADDED) Deployed: John Bento

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES:

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-45 – PERSONNEL

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve personnel recommendations.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the Superintendent's personnel recommendations; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

The motion passed unanimously.

S2013-45 A-I: PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of Elementary Special Educator, Secondary Spanish Teacher, YES Coordinator, two District Mentor Coordinators and Activities Coordinator/Supervisor as listed below:

1. Alyssa Mello Special Educator – Hugh Cole

**Effective: August 28, 2013, for the
Remainder of the 2013-14 school
year, pending receipt of certification
and satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(New/Resig. T. Bergeron)**

**Funding: Operational Budget
(2nd Step)**

2. Elizabeth A. Durvin Spanish Teacher – Mt. Hope High

**Effective: August 28, 2013 through
February 1, 2014 only, pending
receipt of certification and
satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements**

**Reason: To fill a leave of absence
vacancy
(S. Richards)**

Funding: Operational Budget

(1st Step)

3. Colleen Powers YES Coordinator

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year only**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Student Equity Fund

4. Brian P. MacDougall District Mentor Coordinator

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year only**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Operational Budget

5. Tricia E. Talbot District Mentor Coordinator

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year only**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Operational Budget

6. Geoffrey Keegan Activities Coordinator/Supervisor

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year only**

Reason: To fill a new position

Funding: Operational Budget

B. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Elementary Head Teacher as listed below:

1. Marilyn A. Jones Head Teacher – Hugh Cole

**Effective: For the 2013-14 school
year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Resignation – J. Greene)**

Funding: Operational Budget

C. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):

1. JoAnn E. Goulart Child Care Site Coordinator (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year, pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

D. HIGH SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2013-14 session only of the Mt. Hope High School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Position

1. Colleen Powers Support Teacher

2. Mary Linda Soderlund English Teacher/Support Teacher
3. Paula Faria PBGR Recovery Teacher/Social Studies Teacher
4. Joseph Koger Science Teacher

E. SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals as Part Time Special Education Consultants for the 2013-14 school year contingent upon funding and student needs:

Name Position Funding

1. Audrey Thorpe Adaptive Physical Education/Private IDEA/
Oper.
Budget
2. Jasmin Desmarais Certified Occupational Therapist IDEA/Oper.

Assistant (COTA) Budget
3. Kathleen Boylan Child Outreach Screener Preschool
IDEA
4. Elizabeth Rego Occupational Therapist Operational
Budget

5. Carol Russell Resource Consultant IDEA

6. Madlyn McArdle Special Education Tutor

**Operational
Budget**

7. Kristen Burke Speech/Language Pathologist

**IDEA
Oper. Budget**

F. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2013-14 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

FALL COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

1. Tennis (Girls) Asst. Coach Timothy Thorpe *

WINTER COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

2. Unified Basketball ** Head Coach Thomas Fullen

SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

3. Baseball (Boys) Head Coach William Gaine III *

HEALTHY HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER/GYM AREA SUPERVISORS

4. Supervisor (Fall) Gerard Spence

ADVISORS – MT. HOPE HIGH

5. Class of 2014 (Co-Advisor) Scott Pellerin

6. Class of 2014 (Co-Advisor) Jeanne Chaffee

7. Marching Band Asst. Director Lynn Souza ***

8. Marching Band - Drill Instructor Lynn Souza ***

9. Marching Band – Color Guard Instructor Laurie Metthe

10. Marching Band – Color Guard Instructor Jennifer Metthe *

11. Mathematics Club Anne Marie Fayan

12. National Honor Society Gerard Spence

13. Symphonic Band Christopher

Lambert

INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

Sport Position Coach

14. Baseball Head Coach Paul Castigliego

15. Fast-Pitch Softball (Girls) Asst. Coach Kristin Furtado *

16. Soccer (Girls) Asst. Coach Caitlin Booth *

INTRAMURAL COACHES – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

Sport Position Coach

17. Basketball Coach Paul Castigliego

18. Flag Football Coach Paul Castigliego

ADVISORS – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

- 19. Drama Club Samantha Medeiros**
- 20. Journalism Club Brad Rodrigues**
- 21. Student Government Jane Swift**
- 22. Young Mariners Club Joseph
Bartoshevich**

- * Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**
- ** Funded by Special Olympics RI**
- *** Pending execution of Terms of Employment**

G. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Jane Bamberg Sec. Science/ESL**

- 2. Paul F. Courcy Elementary/Sp.Ed./Business**

3. Lisa M. Raposo Elementary

H. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

SECRETARIAL

1. Jessica L. DaSilva

2. Diane M. Mariani

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

3. Lynne Abendroth

I. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Emily Lorenzi from the position of Child Care Site Coordinator and Christopher DelTatto from the position of Security Systems Technician as listed below:

1. Emily Lorenzi Child Care Site Coordinator

Effective: September 6, 2013

Reason: Personal

2. Christopher DelTatto Security Systems Technician

Effective: September 6, 2013

Reason: Personal

RECOMMENDATION #S2013-46 – Home School Requests

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of (8) Bristol families and (3) Warren families to home school their children for the 2013-2014 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the requests for home schooling; seconded by Mrs. Campbell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Wainwright asked if the families of high school home school students fully understand a diploma cannot be received from MHHS. Mrs. Thies responded that families do understand. She

continued that Dr. Andrade's office handles home school requests. Dr. Andrade added that there are currently two 12th grade students who were enrolled at the high school last year, but are home schooling this year. He continued that those students did fulfill the NECAP requirements, but those families do understand that they will not receive a diploma from the high school. Mrs. Wainwright asked if those students will take a GED. Dr. Andrade responded, "not necessarily".

The motion passed with a 6-1 vote; Mrs. McBride opposed.

CHAIRPERSONS INITIATIVES

School Committee Goals

Chairman Silva asked the Committee if there were any additional comments related to the revised School Committee Goals document. Mrs. Campbell commented that she hoped she did a good job weeding out those items requested by the Committee as well as incorporating those ideas discussed at the last meeting.

Mrs. Campbell commented that Professional Development for School Committee members caused a difference of opinion on how this should be accomplished. She continued that it is her understanding that if the School Committee produces their own Professional Development plan and submits to RIASC for approval, members would not have to attend the Saturday RIASC meetings. Mrs. Campbell said, however, she understands the importance of RIASC

meetings as a means to meet other School Committee members throughout the state which is why included in the goals there is an action item to attend at least one RIASC meeting. . Mrs. Campbell feels the benefit of the School Committee developing their own Professional Development is that it can be tailored to the BWRSD School Committee specifically. These Professional Development sessions would be done four times a year. Mrs. Campbell suggested assigning a School Committee member to coordinate Professional Development speakers and then in turn could work with Dr. Andrade to put together a Professional Development plan. Mrs. McBride asked if it was necessary to assign a School Committee member or could the Superintendent or Asst. Superintendent be relied upon to accomplish. Mrs. Campbell responded that if it is not specifically on the goals, it could fall through the cracks. She added by having someone assigned, that person could work with Administration to develop a Professional Develop Plan for School Committee members.

Mrs. Wainwright stated it is her understanding that School Committee members must complete six hours of Professional Development to fulfill the requirement, but added that from her limited experience at RIASC, there were some individual Professional Development sessions that were four hours long. She then asked why it would be necessary for the Committee to do four separate Professional Development days. Mr. Saviano commented that RIDE sent out a notice today about a Professional Development day coming up in October which will be an all day event. He added that the School Committee members will have the option to pick from a

series of classes. Mr. Saviano stated those classes would give all the credits needed for the entire year. He encouraged the School Committee members to attend.

Budget Priorities for the District

Chairman Silva would like to add “Budget Chair” to the “Responsible” column of the “...budget priorities for the District” item. He stated that the School Committee Chair would need to work together with the Budget Chair to accomplish this.

Liaisons

Mrs. McBride stated she would like to be able to advocate for all schools, not just one. She added that she is uncomfortable with how this goal is stated. Chairman Silva responded that he did not look at this item the same way, but that any School Committee member is free to visit all schools whether they are a liaison to one school or not. Mrs. Campbell stated that in the past, a liaison was simply an advocate for the school they were assigned to. She commented that the concern raised is whether a liaison would be overstepping the bounds of administration. Mr. O'Dell commented that it is a question of the definition of roles and responsibilities. He feels that a liaison is a nice idea providing we are defining why they are there. He added that if the liaison is there to seek out problems and overstep the Superintendent, he would not be for it. Mr. O'Dell finished by saying if the liaison is at the school as an ambassador, then he would be agreeable to it. Mrs. Rancourt commented that School Committee

members are elected officials. She feels by attending PTO meetings or attending functions, the School Committee member is sharing in an event with those who elected them which shows their investment to the schools. She feels a liaison is valuable. Chairman Silva stated that the definition of a liaison is a close relation or link where information can be given and assistance offered. Mrs. Wainwright stated that she gets a sense that the School Committee is limited with their time and is concerned on whether there are six people who would be available to attend PTO meetings. Mr. O'Dell stated that he agrees with most of Mrs. Rancourt's commentary, but defers on the meaning of liaison. He said he would have a hard time if a liaison was going into the school on a fact finding mission. Mrs. Campbell added that there is a current School Committee Policy that prohibits speaking to staff and administration. Mrs. Campbell suggested that instead of keeping this as a goal, to explore the concept to better define the roles and responsibilities and then possibly add as a goal next year. Mrs. Rancourt believes the Actions/Timing clearly spells out what the role of a liaison is, "attend occasional PTO meetings". Chairman Silva commented that currently members are seeing a possible problem of bypassing administration, where before it wasn't an issue as no one usurped anyone's power or authority. He added that currently the Town of Bristol has a liaison to the School Committee whose assigned duty is to report back so there is a method of communication. Chairman Silva sees the position of liaison as providing continual communication with a constituent. Mrs. Campbell said some of the concern began when the previous

Chair requested reports from the liaison on what was working or not working at the schools. Mrs. Lynch stated she understands the position as more of a liaison to the community not the administration.

Mrs. McBride commented that the original goal for liaison was to attend events and PTO meetings resulting in availability to parents. Mrs. Lynch responded that for her personally and probably for others, it would not be possible to commit to every event that includes parents throughout the year, especially those events that take place during the day. Mrs. Wainwright asked if the Committee knows when the PTO meetings are scheduled.

The following “vote” was taken on whether to keep school liaison as a goal:

Mrs. McBride – no

Mr. O'Dell – as it is written, “no”

Mrs. Rancourt – yes

Mrs. Lynch – as it is written, “yes”

Mrs. Wainwright – yes

Mrs. Campbell – yes

Mr. Saviano – yes

Chairman Silva stated that a majority of the School Committee would like to keep liaison as a School Committee Goal.

Increase School Committee Outreach to the community

Mrs. Wainwright commented that she does not like the way this goal is written; specifically, encouraging the public's attendance to School Committee meetings. Mrs. Wainwright sees community outreach as more the School Committee attending school activities to support the schools whenever possible. She cited the Bodacious Bee as an example. Mrs. Campbell replied that the goal has to be measurable. She stated currently the goal is written in a way that can be measured. Mrs. Campbell asked Mrs. Wainwright if she would like to have included a certain number of events to attend. Mrs. Campbell suggested adding "liaison" as number 3 under "Community Outreach" goal with the outcome measure of "attending PTO and events as appropriate".

Mrs. Wainwright asked why the Parent and Community Involvement item was no longer listed on the goals. She would like the District website or a Letter to the Editor to encourage the citizens of Bristol and Warren to participate in the collection of box tops for our schools. Mrs. Wainwright also stated that the Stop and Shop A-Plus Rewards Program will be starting again, and would like to encourage parents and the community to register their loyalty cards. Mrs. Wainwright would like to see "Parent and Community Involvement" back as a goal. Mrs. Campbell responded that she does not believe this would be the School Committee's role. She added that the School Committee's role is to set policy and give direction. Mrs. Campbell stated that she will consider Mrs. Wainwright's comments when completing her modifications.

Mr. Saviano would like to start over with writing the School Committee goals planning for next year citing the difference of opinion on a few items. Chairman Silva reminded Mr. Saviano that it took three and a half years to complete the goals that are currently being looked at. Chairman Silva does not believe that the conflict concerning differing opinions of goals is going to go away. Mr. Saviano responded that he feels the School Committee needs to become more educated on what has been successful throughout Rhode Island and the country and possibly incorporate those goals into BWRSD School Committee's goals. Mrs. McBride took exception to Mr. Saviano's comment and stated that she is very proud of the work the BWRSD School Committee has done in researching and preparing these goals. Mrs. McBride feels the goals must be finished tonight.

Mrs. Campbell commented to Mr. Saviano's point that the goals established by the School Committee are personal to the District and what the Committee wants to accomplish. As a result, she does not feel it is necessary to look at what other communities are doing.

Chairman Silva suggested that Mrs. Campbell make a few modifications to the document to make it more palatable based on the comments this evening and then present to the full Committee at the next meeting at which time it will be placed as an action item for approval or disapproval. Chairman Silva reiterated that the School Committee Policy timetable must be followed and goals established

so that the Superintendent can prepare and present to the School Committee.

Chairman Silva requested that School Committee members contact Mrs. Thies if there is something they would like her to address in her goals so she can respond prior to presenting to the School Committee. Mrs. Thies wanted to clarify what Chairman Silva's expectation is regarding this. Chairman Silva responded that some School Committee members suggested goals for the School Committee that fall more in line with the Superintendent's goals and/or are similar to what has already been established as Superintendent's goals. Chairman Silva stated that this request is more to prepare the Superintendent were there to be a discussion on any "additional items".

Mrs. Campbell closed by saying she will go through the goals and do some modifications based on those items discussed this evening and then give to the Chairman prior the next meeting for his review.

Chairman Silva closed by stating the modified version will be presented at the next meeting for a vote.

MHHS PARTNERSHIP WITH HARLAND MELTZER AND THE COLONIAL THEATER PRODUCTION COMPANY

Mrs. Thies began by giving background concerning the partnership with MHHS and Harland Meltzer and the Colonial Theater Production

Company. She stated that she has been working with Mr. Meltzer, Executive Director of the theater company, since last year after being prompted by a Bristol Town Council member to open up dialogue with Mr. Meltzer to perhaps develop a partnership for a Shakespeare program at MHHS. Mrs. Thies stated last spring Mr. Meltzer came and presented to KMS and MHHS an adapted version of the Taming of the Shrew which was very well received by the students. Mrs. Thies said that she would like to formalize this partnership. She added that it does not require a formal vote in terms of the MOA. Mrs. Thies stated she just wanted to share her thinking on this program. Mrs. Thies and Mr. Meltzer made adjustments to two items on the MOA. Mrs. Thies said the first adjustment is due to the fact that Mr. Meltzer realized he could not move forward with a production this year as it would occur between December and February. She added that he is planning to produce two plays in the summer so it won't conflict with the school schedule. Mrs. Thies stated the other adjustment was related to the Playwrights Workshop that Mr. Meltzer would like to provide, but knowing the dates for the festival at the high school, he wasn't sure he could deliver during that time. Mrs. Thies added that Mr. Meltzer felt starting with a smaller model would be best. Mrs. Thies suggested that he work at the middle school level. Mrs. Thies stated that the MOA will formalize the process. Mrs. Thies stated this is a quality theater company with a vast number of years experience that will enrich the school's program. She added that a professional theater company would have residence at the high school and would also provide for the middle school as well.

Mrs. Wainwright commented that she is very excited about this program. Chairman Silva had a question about the liability insurance stating that the District should be mentioned as additional insured. Mrs. Silva commented that the theater company will be covered under the District's insurance. Mrs. Thies stated that the language will be changed to address Chairman Silva's concern. Mrs. Wainwright asked if Mr. Meltzer will need a background check. Mrs. Thies responded that anyone with the company will have to fulfill the District's policy concerning background checks. Mr. O'Dell would like to see a title listed on the MOA rather than a specific person. Mrs. Thies replied that the MOA is for a current year. She added that after a year, the program will be reviewed and then a determination made on how it might grow or the partnership might change. Mrs. Thies said that if the program moves forward, then Mr. O'Dell's point will be addressed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. O'Dell would like to have Common Core Curriculum added as a future agenda item. He commented Common Core Curriculum is gaining momentum with nationwide pushback. Mr. O'Dell feels it is important to discuss "Why the District is doing Common Core Curriculum?" and to be more informed about the subject as he feels lack of information among people is causing the growing pushback. Mrs. Thies feels this is an excellent idea as it is important to be

informed regarding initiatives within the District, State and Nation. Mrs. Thies stated that she has been in contact with BWEF to begin a series of community forums. She added that a forum is scheduled for October 24th where the Common Core will be discussed. This will be a large community outreach in regard to what these standards are and how they will impact the District, State and Nation. She feels a more personal forum is recommended for the School Committee. Mrs. Thies fully endorses Mr. O'Dell's recommendation.

Mrs. Wainwright would like an update on how the current seniors who will not be graduating due to low NECAP scores are doing and whether they are currently on target. Chairman Silva asked if Mrs. Wainwright would like this discussed at a School Committee meeting or through an Admin Report. Mrs. Wainwright was agreeable to either.

Mrs. Lynch would like to have a discussion about the different school guidance models across the country. She feels the District has been using the same model for a long time. She would like to explore if there is something new or better.

Chairman Silva mentioned that Bristol Warren Regional School District has been asked to host the next Board of Education meeting which will be held on Monday, October 7th in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope

High School. He encouraged all School Committee members to make note of the date and to plan on attending. Mrs. Thies commented that state initiatives will be discussed. Chairman Silva stated that the Policy meeting originally scheduled for that night will be pushed back to Monday, September 30th. Mrs. Wainwright asked if an agenda will be made public for the Board of Education meeting. Chairman Silva said that an agenda will be posted and will be on the Attorney General's website. Mrs. Campbell suggested alerting the Town Council as well.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:18 p.m.

MOTION: At 8:18 PM Mrs. McBride made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd